

REMARKS

The following remarks, are submitted as fully responsive to the Office Action. Claims 24-32 are pending in this application. No claim amendments have been made. Claim 24 is the sole independent claim. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 24-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,599,301 to Jacobs et al. (“Jacobs”). Applicant traverses these rejections, and respectfully requests that claims 24-32 be reconsidered and allowed in view of the arguments provided below.

Claims 24-32 each recite a method of inflating a balloon catheter, wherein the method includes “injecting fluid into the balloon catheter at a predetermined rate” and “comparing the actual pressure data to **baseline pressure data representative of inflation characteristics of the balloon catheter in a controlled environment**” (emphasis added). Applicants do not believe that Jacobs either teaches or suggests these particular elements. The Examiner states in the Office Action that Jacobs, at column 9, lines 64+, discloses comparing actual pressure data to baseline pressure data representative of inflation characteristics of a balloon catheter in a controlled environment. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Jacobs describes conforming the rate of change of pressure to a set-point value by means of a feedback loop controller, making consistent inflations or deflations possible regardless of variations in catheter volume or compliance characteristics. Jacobs at Abstract. In Jacobs, the rate of change of pressure is compared with a set-point rate of change of pressure. The set-point rate of change of pressure may be pre-selected by the user during setup, or may be preprogrammed to a “very rapid deflation” value, as appropriate. Jacobs at 11:18-23; 8:5-31. As

such, Applicant contends that Jacobs does not teach or suggest comparing actual pressure data to **baseline pressure data representative of inflation characteristics of the balloon catheter in a controlled environment.**

In the Office Action, the Examiner refers to Column 9, lines 64+ of Jacobs. In this portion of the disclosure, Jacobs only describes setting an initial speed of an inflation. Jacobs further describes various factors that may be considered when setting this initial speed. For example, Jacobs states that the initial speed may be “based on **average values** of catheter inflation fluid volumes and compliance parameters **for the various sizes and types of catheters expected to be used with the system**” (emphasis added). Jacobs at 10:44-47. As such, Jacobs discloses using average values of certain parameters for various sizes and types of catheters expected to be used. Conversely, claims 24-32 of the present application recite injecting fluid into a balloon catheter at a predetermined rate and comparing the actual pressure data to baseline pressure data representative of inflation characteristics of the balloon catheter in a controlled environment. These claims thus require comparing the actual pressure data to baseline data representative of inflation characteristics of the actual balloon catheter used during a procedure. This is distinctly different than what is described in Jacobs.

Jacobs later discloses a microprocessor that calculates a predicted rate of change of pressure at the current pressure and motor speed. “This calculated predicted rate is based on a preprogrammed rate curve **based on empirical data for typical catheters at various pressures and motor speeds**” (emphasis added). Jacobs at 15:9-15. Conversely, claims 24-32 of the present application require comparing the actual pressure data to baseline data representative of inflation characteristics of the actual balloon catheter used during a procedure. As such, the

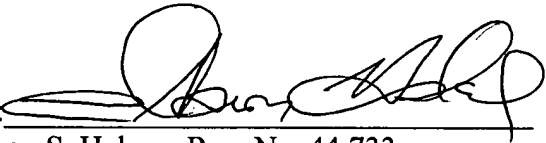
Applicant does not believe that Jacobs teaches or suggests each of the elements recited in claims 24-32.

In view of the arguments presented above, Applicant does not believe that Jacobs anticipates claims 24-32 of the present application. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

No fee is believed to be necessary in connection with the filing of this response. However, if any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

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